Abstract

An apparatus and method for enhancing blood circulation are used to apply external pressure to a patient's extremity to improve blood circulation. The apparatus includes a rigid enclosure and an inflatable flexible enclosure that extends around the patient's extremity. A source of compressed gas discharges gas into the flexible enclosure to apply external pressure to the extremity. A monitor and pilot control valve regulate the flow of compressed gas into the flexible enclosure. A pressure sensor, servomechanism and adjustable control valve adjust the flow of gas to maintain preset pressure peaks in the flexible enclosure. A pressure storage tank is connected with the source of compressed gas to provide a reserve of compressed gas at a desired operating pressure.